

on the campus of this great University to bear my name, I would have chosen none other than this — this edifice that will house the artistic pursuits of scholars now and in the future, this building which symbolizes mankind's eternal quest for beauty and truth through artistic expression.

The Fine Arts Center which we are dedicating here today marks a significant step forward in the advancement toward maturity of this institution of learning. I am exceedingly proud that it was erected during my term of office as Governor of the State. And while I am indeed pleased that the building bears my name, I know that it is in truth a monument to all the people of Maryland who have given a part of themselves to the building of this University, and is a memorial especially to the members of the Board of Regents, the administrative officers and the members of the faculty of the University of Maryland.

This is a red-letter day in the history of the University. Let us observe it with joy and thanksgiving. In the complex industrial and commercial society in which we live today, the emphasis is placed too strongly I think on the material aspects of our lives — on such things as jobs, housing and food. And while the gratification of these material wants is a proper human purpose, it is regrettable, I think, that too much stress is often laid upon these pursuits, to the neglect of our intellectual and esthetic development. That man does not live by bread alone is one of the eternal verities — a truth that has been expressed in one form or another since the dawn of civilization. We expend a great portion of our energy in the fulfillment of our material needs. A starved body is inimical to a sound society, but a starved mind and a starved spirit is just as harmful. Arts and letters are our most precious heritage. In them are embodied the knowledge, the wisdom, the experiences of the peoples of all ages — an inexhaustible treasure upon which we may draw to equip ourselves for the struggles of life.

President Johnson, in one of his speeches spoke of arts and letters as "the inner vision which guides us as a nation," and went on to say, in the words of Solomon, that "where there is no vision, the people perish."

I think all of us are heartened and inspired by the developments of the past few years in which the promotion of arts and letters has been recognized as a legitimate function of government. One of the best examples of this, on the federal government level, was the passage of the eighty-ninth Congress of a law establishing a national foundation on the arts and humanities, a measure to support, encourage